The five ongoing projects of gauge conversion falling partly/fully in the State of Assam are.—

(i) Kathakhal-Bairabhi

(ii) Haibargaon-Mairabari and Senchoa Junction-Silghat Town of Lumding-Dibrugarh with linked fingers

(iii) Lumding-Silchar, Silchar-Jiribam and extension from Badarpur to Baraigram

(iv) New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-New Bongaigaon including linked branch lines

(v) Rangia-Murkongselek alongwith linked fingers

(b) and (c) Out of the above projects in Assam New Jalpaiguri-New Bongaigaon is likely to be completed during 10th Plan. The other projects will be completed in the coming years subject to availability of resources.

**Developmental Projects**

1918. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue collection during the last two years zone-wise;

(b) whether development works are undertaken commensurating with the income generated in the zones; and

(c) if not, how priority for developmental projects is selected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The zone wise Gross Earnings of Indian Railways

during the last two years are as appended below:

(Figures in crore of Rs.)

| Zones | 2002-03 | 2003-04 (Provisional) |
|---|---|---|
| Central | 7196.17 | 4362 08 |
| Eastern | 4087 60 | 1030 69 |
| East Central | @ | 2988 79 |
| East Coast | @ | 2996 06 |
| Northern | 7315 71 | 5002 76 |
| North Central | @ | 3218.05 |
| North Eastern | 1339.33 | 937.76 |
| North-East Frontier | 962 21 | 1113.56 |
| North Western | @ | 1360.67 |
| Southern | 2852 12 | 2424.62 |
| South Central | 4030.76 | 3702 47 |
| South Eastern | 7906 91 | 2700.08 |
| South East Central | @ | 2725.01 |
| South Western | @ | 1133.34 |
| Western | 5418.40 | 3812.56 |
| West Central | @ | 2461.25 |
| Metro | 38.52 | 42.42 |
| TOTAL | 41147.73 | 42842.17 |

@ These new zones were operationalised w.e.f 1.10. 2002/ 1.4.2003. The separate Accounts compilation for these zones was, however, started w e f 1.4.2003 only.

(b) and (c) Railway Projects undertaken on the Railways are need based and dependent on requirement of traffic and various considerations

**Filling of backlog in reserved vacancies**

1919 SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the detailed figure of backlogs in all groups of Railway Service in respect of reserved vacancies for Scheduled Tribes,

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to fill up the vacancies for STs including the backlogs immediately; and

(c) by when the backlog is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The backlog vacancies (including the carried forward reservation) of Scheduled Tribes (STs) in recruitment categories as on 31 3 2004 on Indian Railways are as under —

| Group | No of backlog vacancies of STs |
|---|---|
| 'A' | Nil |
| 'B' | Nil |
| 'C, | 2044 |
| 'D' | 2689 |
| TOTAL | 4733 |

(b) and (c) In pursuance of Railway Budget 2004-2005 Speech (para 83-84), instructions for launching of Special Recruitment Drive (SRD) to fill up the backlog vacancies of Scheduled Tribes (STs) existing as on 31 3 2004 in Group 'C' and Group 'D' in a time bound manner i e by 30 6 2005 have since been issued to all the Zonal Railways/Production Units